



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Water Use Advisory Council

April 21, 2020

Chair Laura A. Campbell, Manager
Agricultural Ecology Department
Michigan Farm Bureau

WUAC Meeting Materials

https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3313_3684_64633-521237-,00.html

Water Use Advisory Council (WUAC) Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2020
1-3 p.m.
On Teams Hosted by
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Meeting Logistics—Laura Campbell, Co-Chair Farm Bureau
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda-Roll Call Vote
4. Approval of Minutes-Roll Call Vote
5. Public Comment
6. Overview of the current status of EGLE and WUAC operations during COVID-19 and Program Staff Update --Jim Milne, MI Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy
7. Program Update --Abby Eaton, MI Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
8. Updates-
 - Data Collection Committee
 - Bryan Burroughs, Michigan Trout Unlimited
 - Implementation Strategies Committee
 - Douglas Needham, Michigan Aggregates Association
 - Models Committee
 - Dave Hamilton, The Nature Conservancy
 - New Topics Committee
 - Pat Staskiewicz, MI Section American Water Works Association
9. Open Comments
10. Next Meeting
11. Motion to Adjourn



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Agency Update

Jim Milne

Water Use Assessment Unit

EGLE Water Resources Division

Outline

- EGLE Functioning During Covid-19
- Water Use Program Metrics
- Water Use Staff Working Remotely
- Personnel: Good News/Bad News

EGLE Functioning During Covid-19

- Most staff working remotely
- Essential travel only
- Maintaining safe distances from people
- Wearing protective masks & gloves
- Remote meetings
- EGLE still protecting human health, safety, & environment

Program Metrics

- 112 SSRs submitted
- 14 SSR decisions not made ≤ 10 days
- 14 total SSRs still pending
- 87.5% of SSR decisions made ≤ 10 days
- Average days to SSR decision 8.2

Compliance Metrics

Compliance Communications:

Amended registrations 290

After the fact registrations 77

Missing pump information 98

First Violation Notices 23

Second Violation Notices 2

Violations Closed 9

Public Water Supply Pre-Screening Reviews

- Passed: Caledonia Township, City of Hillsdale
- Denied: Village of Mendon increase

Working Remotely

- All staff have secure VPN connections
- Staff either have laptops or are using their desktop computers at home
- E-mails instead of phone calls
- Teleconferences or web conferences
- Non-essential travel prohibited

Personnel: Good News/Bad News

- New hires progressing nicely
- Geologist 12 vacancy pulled

Questions?

Jim Milne
Water Use Assessment Unit
EGLE Water Resources Division
517-285-3253
milnej@michigan.gov

Michigan Department of
Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

800-662-9278

Michigan.gov/EGLE



Follow us at: Michigan.gov/EGLEConnect

Agricultural Water Use Reporting Updates

Abigail Eaton
Environmental Stewardship Division
*Michigan Department of Agriculture &
Rural Development*

DATA Committee Update

Co-Chair Bryan Burroughs, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Michigan Trout Unlimited

Implementation Strategies Committee Update

Co-Chair Douglas E. Needham, P.E.
President
Michigan Aggregates Association

Committee Ranking of Past Recommendations

- Ranked 35 items in the HLH and HHH categories in the Impact/Effort/Urgency column (H = high, L = low).
- The following is a summary of the voting:
 - **5 votes – TU2.2, TU7.1, EM2.1**
 - **4 votes – TU.3.1, EM2.4**
 - 3 votes – TU1.1, TU1.2, TU1.3, TU1.3a, TU1.3b, EM2.2, EM2.3
 - 2 votes – TU6.1, EM1.6
 - 1 vote – EM1.2, EM1.1, TU4.1, EM1.3, TU4.2
- Following noted recommendations per 12/12/14 Final Report

TU 2.2 - WWAT Registration Numbers

- Recommendation -“Make the WWAT registration number a required field in Wellogic (and on paper well logs) for high-capacity wells.”
- EGLE reported that there is an optional field in Wellogic for this registration number but it is not mandatory.
- The benefits of making this a required field would speed up the process of registrations and compliance reviews.
- Currently the requirement to provide a WWAT registration number is on the owner of the well and not the drillers. However, if the requirement was shifted to the drillers this may add an administrative burden to the drillers.
- It is believed that this change could be handled via administratively vs. legislatively.
- ***Action: Develop a workgroup with well drillers/EGLE Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division (DWEHD)/WRD/DTMB to discuss this suggested change/modification.***
- ***Cost: No legislative funding request***

TU 7.1 - Features of Groundwater-Flow Models

- Recommendation - “Work with stakeholders to develop criteria describing the required features of groundwater-flow models to be used in the water-withdrawal assessment process focusing on streamflow depletion.”
- This has been discussed as part of the Michigan Hydrologic Framework and is being addressed in the Models Committee.
- There needs to be a process developed by EGLE, with input from the Models Committee, on how to incorporate information into models.
- Action: EGLE to develop baseline criteria as to what is required if new ideas/methods are proposed. EGLE will reference approved test methods and set minimum requirements. Once drafted, the criteria will be presented to the WUAC for review.
- ***Cost: No legislative funding request***

EM 2.1 – Michigan Hydrologic Framework

- Recommendation: “A database be created to gather and collate data on glacial geology, static water levels and aquifer characteristics collected by state and federal agencies as well as by universities and private industry. It should utilize a common set of accepted geologic and hydrogeologic terms and fields. Organizations or agencies collecting this data should have the ability to submit information to be entered into the database, and the data submitted shall conform to State program requirements. This database should be publicly viewable.”
- EGLE reported \$100,000, allocated from Clean Michigan Initiative, could be used to leverage additional financial support from other sources for the Michigan Hydrologic Framework. Funding must be committed by 9/30/20.
- Need to develop a framework so that it is compatible with the various sources of geologic, groundwater, water quality, hydrologic, climatological, and other data.
- Action: Request the \$100,000 be used to work with various stakeholders to develop a conceptual framework on how to store and utilize both water quantity and quality information. Once developed, determine how to move forward.
- ***Cost: \$100,000***

TU3.1 – Automate “as built” with Well Permits

- Recommendation: “The process for checking the compliance of “as built” well construction details with WWAT and/or SSR registrations of groundwater LQWs should be automated. Discrepancies between these should be flagged for follow up by staff.”
- EGLE mentioned that there is need for Welllogic to communicate with the WWAT tool and MDARD reporting data.
- It would be beneficial to have a flagging process that identifies discrepancies between as approved and “as built” wells.
- This improvement will speed up the time it takes EGLE staff to ensure that the installation details match the authorized details. This will benefit the authorization time on future wells. It will also reduce the workload of EGLE compliance staff, expediting efforts to bring more serious violations of Part 327 back into compliance. It will also result in fewer compliance communications being sent to property owners (with copies to consultants, well drillers, and other agents) to address these violations.
- It was mentioned that a new system would be required to address this recommendation.
- Action: Form a workgroup with well driller, DTMB, DWEHD, and WRD to discuss the design of a new system that would address how this could be accomplished.
- ***Cost: Unknown at this time. Will be determined by the workgroup.***

EM 2.4 – Specific Transmissivity Values

- Recommendation: “The DEQ should use high quality data it receives, acquires, or collates from the data submitted to the groundwater database and integrate that data into the SSRs, develop numerical models to better understand the hydrogeology of certain areas, and develop better tools to predict streamflow depletion in those areas. Collection of this data and using updated models can ultimately inform and upgrade the screening tool once sufficient data is collected for the associated Watershed Management Areas.”
- The WWAT’s groundwater model currently uses median aquifer transmissivity values for a given water management area and a statewide default aquifer storage coefficient value that is appropriate for a leaky confined aquifer.
- If any data is changed in the WWAT, it applies to all of the areas of the water management area. However, many areas of the state have water management areas with varying geology so a generic number for the entire area is not truly representative.
- Benefit: If WWAT had more realistic information, the need for SSR’s could be reduced.
- Action: The Models committee is planning on bringing to the full WUAC with a plan/cost.
- **Cost: TBD**

Future Direction

- Currently implementation committee focusing on past recommendations
- Need input from other committee's regarding both past and current improvements
- Questions...
 - How many items do we want to address?
 - How much funding are we seeking?
 - What other factors should we consider?

Models Committee Update

David A. Hamilton
Senior Policy Director
Great Lakes Project
The Nature Conservancy in Michigan

- The Models Committee will coordinate with the Implementation Committee by prioritizing our recommendations. This will be done after we have a better handle on which recommendations, we will have ready for this year.
- RECOMMENDATION: “Update WWAT user interface to display registration information.” This is a relatively small project that will make more information available to the user through WWAT’s interactive map interface. This will result in time and cost savings for EGLE staff. Cost estimates must come from DTMB, who will do the work on this state database. There will be other projects that must be completed by DTMB, we plan to wait until we have several before requesting cost estimates.

- The workgroup prepared draft comments on the Aquifer Test Guidelines. It will continue working with EGLE staff to develop better and clearer guidance.
- Discussing projects to update storage coefficients and transmissivity used in the WWAT. Need to identify areas where this would be scientifically appropriate and would result in more accurate streamflow depletion calculations.

INFORMATION: “Process to Update the WWAP and Screening Tool”

The draft document reviews the statutes and original documents creating the Water Withdrawal Assessment Process and Screening Tool to find guidance regarding the appropriate processes necessary to modify the overall process or tool. The key language is summarized, and an initial assessment is made of how these apply to the changes considered by the Models Committee.

New Topics Committee Update

Co-Chair Pat Staskiewicz, P.E.
Director
MI Section American Water Works
Association

- No New Topics have been referred to this committee.
- Planning to meet on May 5, 10am-11am to discuss Water Users Groups
- Will schedule a meeting later in May or in June to discuss Water Conservation and Efficiency.

Water Use Advisory Council

New Topics Committee

Agenda for May 5, 2020

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes
3. Public Comment on agenda items
4. Water Users Groups
 - a. Addressing Noncompliance Issues
Update from EGLE (Milne)
 - b. Water Users Groups
Review recommendations WU 2.1 – 2.5 (2014 WUAC Report) (Staskiewicz)
 - c. Accessing Water User Information
Update from EGLE (Milne)
 - d. Facilitation and Technical Assistance
Review recommendations WU 4.1 – 4.2 (Staskiewicz)
5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Water Use Advisory Council

New Topics Committee

Agenda for ??? 2020

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes
3. Public Comment on agenda items
4. Water Conservation and Efficiency

- a. Program Update

Review Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Assessment - 2019 (Clift)

- b. Next Steps

Discuss improvements needed to the Water Conservation and Efficiency Program and prioritize recommendations. (Staskiewicz)

5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items